

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 5-18 are pending in the application.

By the foregoing Amendment, claims 3, 9, 12-14, 16, and 17 are amended. New claim 18 is added.

Claim 16 is amended to incorporate limitations from claims 2 and 4, so as to avoid the necessity of reciting "the partial region" in line 5 of claim 16. Support for the dividing, subdividing, and comparing steps as amended is found in paragraphs 00021, 00024, and 0008, respectively, of the previously-submitted substitute specification.

Claims 3, 9, and 12-14 are amended to correct their dependencies; and claim 17 is amended for conformity with the amendments to the language of claim 16.

These changes are believed not to introduce new matter, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections, and withdraw them.

Allowable Subject Matter

As no prior art has been cited in rejecting the claims, and as the amendments to claim 16 primarily add limitations from dependent claims 2 and 4, it is believed that the subject matter of claim 16 and the claims depending therefrom is patentable over the prior art of record.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2

In section 3 of the Office Action, claims 2-17 were rejected under section 112, second paragraph, as being indefiniteness, due to a lack of antecedent basis for “the partial region” in line 5 of claim 16. This rejection is believed to be overcome by the foregoing amendments to claim 16.

Conclusion

All rejections have been complied with, properly traversed, or rendered moot. Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for allowance. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative so that this case may receive an early Notice of Allowance.

Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Petition for extension of time